

The Raleigh Daily News

JORDAN STONE, Managing Editor.
SAMUEL T. WILLIAMS, Political Editor.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1873.

IS IT REPUDIATION?

Some of the enemies of North Carolina have taken the opportunity afforded by the ratification of the constitutional amendments, to strike an unprovoked and unjust blow at the character and honor of the State. The amendment relating to the State debt has given occasion for some of the Republican newspapers of the North to charge that our people have voted openly for repudiation, and thus stained the good name of North Carolina with dishonor.

Even the Secretary of the Treasury, Hon. William A. Richardson, has written to a prominent Radical in this State, deprecating the effect that will follow the adoption of the public debt amendment. Mr. Richardson says it will not only injure the credit of this State, but will injuriously affect in the European market the credit of every other State in the Union and particularly the credit of the National Government.

If the credit of the National Government is at such a low ebb abroad that it can be affected by the recent election in this State, it must be in a very bad way, and is hardly worth preserving.

The New York Times, which is the organ of the Radical party in New York State, grows lugubrious over the dire result, and laments in the following strain:

"If North Carolina has struck from her Constitution the clause which renders the payment of her debt imperative, she has aimed a blow at public confidence, even if repudiation is not intended. Such a course, taken in connection with similar attempts in other Southern States, and vexatious litigations by which sundry counties and townships in various sections of the country seek to avoid their obligations, testifies to a certain uneasiness in poor and debt-ridden communities which have enjoyed the benefits of borrowed money, but feel too proud to pay it."

The Washington Republican, the organ of the President at the seat of Government, makes the following comments on the result of the election in this State:

"As we have already explained, the effect of the amendments will economize the public expenditures in some respects and enable the Legislature to assume full control over the State debt. It now remains to be seen how far that body will go in the direction of repudiation."

The Republican takes a more sensible view of the situation than the Times.

An examination of the clauses in the Constitution which have been stricken out by the ratification of the amendments will convince every unprejudiced mind that the principle of repudiation did not enter into the question at all, and that the adoption of the amendment will in no respect embarrass the State in preserving the purest good faith with her honest creditors.

If the Editor of the Times and Mr. Richardson will examine the Constitutions of other States, they will see that the amendment places North Carolina on precisely the same footing with regard to her pecuniary obligations. After looking over the Constitutions of thirty States as they existed in 1850, we have no new editions of the State Constitutions at hand, we find no obligations imposed in the organic law of any one of the States then in the Union, making the requirement of the General Assembly to provide for the prompt and regular payment of the interest on the State debt. The old Constitution of North Carolina made no such requirement, and before the war our State's credit stood among the first in the market.

In our carpet-bag Constitution, passed by a set of political imbeciles and swindlers, the Bill of Rights has the following provision in its sixth section: "To maintain the honor and good faith of the State unimpaired, the public debt regularly contracted before and since the rebellion, shall be regarded as inviolable and never to be questioned; but the State shall never assume, or pay, or authorize the collection of, any debt or obligation, express or implied, incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave."

The amendment strikes out as unnecessary and superfluous all the words in said section down to and including the word "but." This leaves the Constitution as it was before the war, except that it prohibits the State from assuming or paying any debt incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion. It is not proposed to disregard the obligations regularly contracted before the adoption of the new Constitution except those "incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion." Does the Times object to that?

The amendment in regard to the State debt also strikes out the following section of article fifth: "Sec. 4. The General Assembly shall, by appropriate legislation and by adequate taxation, provide for the prompt and regular payment of the interest on the public debt, and after the year 1880, it shall lay a specific annual tax upon the real and personal property of the State, and the sum thus realized shall be set apart as a sinking fund, to be devoted to the payment of the public debt."

We have not been able to find in the Constitution of any State in the Union any provision similar to the above. And if striking the above section from the organic law is a step towards repudiation, then North Carolina is simply following in the footsteps of New York, Massachusetts and every other State in the Union, so far as we have been able to investigate the provisions of their State Constitutions.

If the amendment on the subject of the State debt had been favorable to repudiation, we should have opposed it. The people of North Carolina are honest people and will do nothing to impair the obligations of any just debt which the State has regularly incurred before or since the war.

As to that portion of the debt that is fraudulent, and that was contracted in direct violation of the new Constitution itself, the State will never be willing to pay or assume it. But the public debt that was made in good faith the State will not attempt to repudiate, but will make such provision for its settlement as the impoverished and embarrassed condition of her finances will allow.

The amendment which the New York Times and other Northern newspapers seem to misunderstand and misinterpret has no other significance than to place the Old North State in precisely the same position which she occupied before the war in regard to her State debt—in the same position in which the State of New York and every State whose Constitution not framed by carpet-baggers, stand to-day—in a position which in no respect, directly or indirectly, gives the Legislature the slightest power to repudiate the honest debt of North Carolina. The people of North Carolina are no more in favor of disregarding their just obligations than are those of New York.

While we have always taken open ground against recognizing as valid the Swenson Littlefield special tax bonds of 1865-69, already pronounced by our Supreme Court unauthorized and unconstitutional, we shall at all times and under all circumstances insist on the faithful compliance on the part of the State with her legal contracts.

THE MURDER OF WILLIE CARTER.
The boy-murder in Wilmington is creating intense excitement in that city. It is one of the most heart-rending affairs that has ever disgraced the criminal history of the State.

The Wilmington Post of the 16th says: "Hour by hour as the mysterious links of evidence are formed, the horror of the people grows deeper. There is not the slightest doubt in the mind of any one at all familiar with the facts, as developed on this trial that the unfortunate Willie Carter, a boy of tender years, was brutally murdered and mutilated, with the most fiendish malignity. The evidence is very conflicting and it is hard to fix the guilt upon the perpetrators. One great difficulty in the way is to discover any motive for the murder. A harmless, inoffensive boy is enticed from home, and according to Dave Martin's evidence, was drowned by his own playmates."

The Post, as do the Star and Journal, contains a full and interesting report of the evidence thus far adduced.

The Journal of Sunday gives over four pages of evidence in regard to the "mysterious murder of little Willie Carter, which has so moved the entire community."

The Star of the same date also gives a lengthy report of the evidence, and from its account we take the latest developments of the horrible crime, which will be found in our news column.

The Charlotte Democrat "goes for" Judge Moore, for calling clerk of the Court "clerk." This pronouncement is considered dignified, and is used by some of the best scholars in the profession, who would be shocked at the like barbarous pronouncement of other words in common use.

[For the Raleigh News.]
BREVITIES ON CAESARIANISM.
Who in America would have a Caesar?
4. We are dealing now with facts and as further proof that some of our people in the South would favor the proclamation of the Empire, or at least be indifferent about it, we present this morning the following from the Richmond, Va., correspondent of the New York Herald, of the 13th inst:

VIEWS OF MR. JAMES COWARDIN, OF THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.
To-day I had a conversation on this subject with James A. Cowardin, the senior editor of the Dispatch of this city, and now the father of Virginia journalism.

"What is your opinion of the newspaper discussion of 'Caesarism'?" I asked the editor.

Editor—Well, sir, I have not paid a great deal of attention to the discussion in the newspapers, because it interests me very little. I have seen numerous articles on the subject without reading them, but I am satisfied that General Grant, if he chooses, can be elected the next President; or if he does not wish to go to the trouble of an election he can declare his purpose to hold on to the office by stationing the army of the United States in the leading cities of the country, ostensibly to preserve the peace, the same as he did in the Southern States while reconstruction was going on.

Correspondent—Do you suppose that

THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH AND WEST

will tamely submit to such an outrage upon their rights and liberties as a conversion of a free government into a despotism?

Editors—The people of the North and West seem to have lost all their love for and devotion to their State governments. They have been so long used to going to Washington and looking to Washington for everything they crave in the shape of land donations, contracts, appropriations and "jobs," that they have sunk the individuality of their States, which are now little more in the Union than a township is in a county, or than Henrico county is in the State of Virginia.

Correspondent—But would they not resist any encroachment upon their republican government, central though it be?

Editor—No, sir, I hardly believe they would, and if they did what would be the use, in face of Grant's power through his six hundred thousand office-holders and the army and the navy, all of which, from their interests and organizations, would be active supporters of a centralized despotism—an Empire. And what would be the difference? Even now we have all the tyranny and despotism of an Empire with the outward forms and semblance of a Republic.

Correspondent—How would the Southern people regard a third term for General Grant, or as it is now understood, the approach of Caesarism?

Editor—With the most perfect indifference. They would be merely "lookers-on in Venice." They have been so long under the rule of the bayonet; have had negro rule so ruthlessly and outrageously fastened upon them; they have been so snubbed and rebuffed at Washington, when gentlemen of respectability, intelligence and influence have demeaned themselves by going there in quest of simple justice, and they have had so little sympathy, without any effort to redress their wrongs from the people of the North and West, that they have ceased to take even a passing interest in the national government.

Correspondent—You are under the impression, then, that the people of the Southern States would not resist if General Grant was ambitious enough to wear a kingly crown on the throne of the United States at Washington?

Editor—Resist sir! Far from it. I rather believe they would resist with a partial motive towards their emancipation from some of the wrongs by which they are now oppressed. Grant would then be more independent, and would not be so much under the control of the unprincipled party leaders by whom he is now surrounded. He would then be free to act according to the dictates of his own conscience, and if he is a man of any principle at all, or with any sense of right and justice, I think that we of the South would be rather benefited by the change. Look, sir, at the condition of poor South Carolina, where the best, most refined, cultivated and bravest of our own race are in a state of governmental vassalage to the brutal, ignorant negro; where they are swindled, robbed and degraded. Ah, sir, said the editor, with a good deal of feeling in his voice, the wrongs of poor South Carolina run to-day in our hearts. We can never forget them, nor can our children ever forget them. Look, too, at Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and other States, and we ask, "How in Heaven's name can we of the South be expected to take an interest in the preservation of a government that has not only permitted but has fostered and nurtured the foul instruments of our oppression?"

Correspondent—Then you think there is little hope for either North or South if Grant uses his power to prolong his administration, or make an Empire out of the Republic?

Editor—A nation that has been trained into the submission to the grossest outrages and been willing slaves to the "best government the world ever saw" will bow before him and cry, "O King, live forever!"

This concluded my interview with the editor of the Dispatch, and thanking him, I took my leave.

To-morrow we will approach the 5th class of Imperialists. RESTING.

WRAPPING PAPER.
20 Reams Fells Neuse Manufacturing Company Paper. We have made arrangements by which we can sell to the trade at still lower prices.
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MEDICAL CARD.
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NOTICE.
The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the last will and testament of Gaston H. Wilder, deceased, before the Judge of Probate for the county of Wake, hereby notifies all persons having claims against the estate of the said deceased to present them for payment on or before the 10th day of August 1873, or they will be paid in bar of their recovery.
SARAH H. WILDER, Executrix.
By H. M. HENDERSON, Special Agent.
Raleigh, August 1th, 1873. [au 14-16w]

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VOTE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

The following is the official vote on the Constitutional Amendments, which were submitted to the people for ratification or rejection, on the seventh day of August, 1873. For convenience, we have classified the amendments by numbers as follows: I, amendment in relation to the Public Debt; II, in relation to Superintendence of Public Works; III, State Census; IV, Exemption from Taxation; V, the University; VI, Sessions of the General Assembly; VII, Code Commission; VIII, Federal Office-holders.

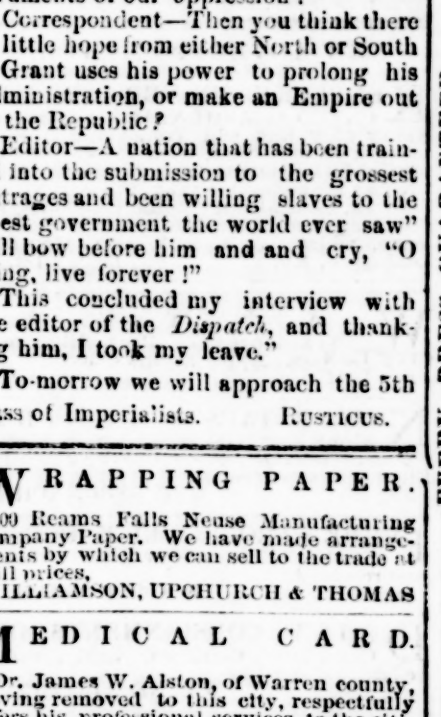
COUNTIES.	Pub. D.	S. P. W.	Census.	Exempt.	Univ.	S. G. A.	C. Com.	Off. H.
Alamance	873	321	868	521	860	514	726	613
Alexander	125	4	102	32	103	42	421	4
Ashe	836	125	807	125	832	125	641	287
Aston	59	116	759	119	656	118	529	128
Bertie	146	120	141	182	125	130	181	120
Blount	311	172	325	169	305	156	316	356
Brunswick	601	225	576	231	584	269	583	25
Cabarrus	685	1	678	0	683	2	641	14
Calwell	922	235	690	129	691	261	661	335
Carteret	1029	9	1029	6	1023	6	912	85
Chatham	405	255	410	200	400	201	445	266
Cherokee	730	85	727	85	734	85	740	82
Clay	708	167	710	129	721	132	703	153
Crawford	1467	120	1417	182	1390	181	1290	1378
Cumbe	1067	176	1061	152	1100	147	886	355
Crittchen	1000	356	1008	345	1073	355	416	279
Dare	1265	254	1269	260	1272	260	1272	260
Duplin	654	181	661	140	648	139	607	144
Durham	1285	186	1276	202	1278	206	1080	677
Forsyth	1298	74	1297	67	1299	69	1299	68
Franklin	764	0	762	0	761	0	757	0
Gates	1667	824	1177	968	1185	967	1501	996
Granville	546	1967	575	1722	580	1647	500	1771
Halifax	745	15	772	17	600	149	738	26
Harnett	736	90	755	89	732	39	545	126
Henderson	1342	21	1328	22	1367	30	388	978
Hertford	547	111	541	61	541	61	541	61
Johnston	1212	20	1215	175	1217	176	1107	174
Jones	429	262	423	265	422	261	301	354
Lenoir	1661	171	1119	154	1089	177	1161	161
Lincoln	63	11	624	16	630	13	286	365
Macon	1888	197	1868	181	1900	181	1682	438
Martin	582	349	585	300	601	319	403	410
Montgomery	777	641	662	646	683	643	608	619
Morris	1528	2489	1525	2105	1543	2112	1227	2067
Musgrave	722	1167	624	1025	647	1065	270	1117
Onslow	1629	362	1621	332	1543	316	1608	348
Orange	898	135	908	135	908	136	869	139
Perquimans	1143	169	1138	170	1111	166	1072	230
Pitt	1157	75	1152	75	1157	71	1055	173
Polk	1156	14	1118	15	1121	14	1181	15
Rockingham	1124	79	1115	806	1117	822	792	858
Rocky Mount	110	9	1428	2	1430	0	1405	0
Rowan	820	263	808	268	818	268	814	274
Salem	365	488	368	482	360	482	370	488
Stanley	421	129	436	169	438	169	401	125
Swain	674	110	679	111	677	112	476	281
Taylorsville	740	1786	730	1800	710	1810	681	1852
Tenney	1297	1251	1301	1253	1300	1215	1300	1188
Union	1086	20	1073	20	1077	20	1075	28
Wake	439	23	445	7	447	13	431	13
Wayne	1086	20	1073	20	1077	20	1075	28
Yadkin	439	23	445	7	447	13	431	13
Yancey	439	23	445	7	447	13	431	13

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